REMARKS

Claims 1-25 are now pending in the application. Claims 1-25 stand rejected. Claims 24 and 25 are cancelled. Claims 1 and 14 are amended. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

FINAL REJECTION AND APPARENT NONEXAMINATION OF PREVIOUSLY ADDED CLAIMS 24 AND 25

The Examiner has indicated that claims 24 and 25 are rejected, but has apparently neglected to consider the subject matter claimed therein. In particular, the Examiner has failed to discuss the limitations recited in those claims, and has failed to provide any references teaching the claimed subject matter. Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that the Examiner should withdraw the Finality of the Rejection and accord the subject matter recited in the previously added claims 24 and 25 their due consideration. Applicants therefore direct the Examiner's attention to the amendments to claims 1 and 14, which add the subject matter previously recited in claims 24 and 25 to the independent claims.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-2, 4, and 6-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Rofrano (U.S. Pat. No. 6,035,283) in view of "Service Equals Sales" (hereinafter Service). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Rofrano is generally directed toward a virtual sales person for electronic catalogue. In particular, the Examiner relies on Rofrano to teach an expert system that queries the shopper about the product, about themselves, and how they plan to use the product, and uses a relational database that relates answers to product features of

selected products. However, the Examiner admits that Rofrano does not teach a projects database containing projects with recommended products. Moreover, the Examiner fails to indicate that Rofrano teaches a website harvesting information about projects that users are working on together with a list of products those users found helpful, wherein said website is configured to dynamically update said projects database at least one of as new projects are discovered by users, and/or as new uses for existing products are discovered by users.

Service is generally directed toward increasing sales by providing service. In particular, the Examiner relies on Service to teach that sales persons at home depot obtain extensive training in knowledge of tools and their uses in particular projects. The Examiner concludes that it would be obvious to modify Rofrano's virtual sales agent based on Service to allow the virtual sales agent to recommend products to inquire of customer's about the type of project, and recommend tool products accordingly. However, the combination of Rofrano and Service does not teach, suggest, or motivate a website harvesting information about projects that users are working on together with a list of products those users found helpful, wherein said website is configured to dynamically update said projects database at least one of as new projects are discovered by users, and/or as new uses for existing products are discovered by users. Instead, the combination suggested by the Examiner would entail training of the sales agent by a system designer, who must therefore be an expert in uses of tools with respect to projects. Accordingly, such designers must be relied upon to know of all types of projects and all types of tools that can be used with those projects. However, it is possible for new types of projects to be developed by users over time, and for new

uses of tools to be discovered by users with respect to projects. In the combination suggested by the examiner, these new projects and uses would not make their way into the knowledge of the sales agent.

Applicants' claimed invention is generally directed toward a networked product selection system. In particular, Applicants' claimed invention is directed toward a website harvesting information about projects that users are working on together with a list of products those users found helpful, wherein said website is configured to dynamically update said projects database at least one of as new projects are discovered by users, and/or as new uses for existing products are discovered by users. For example, independent claims 1 and 14, especially as amended, recite, "a website harvesting information about projects that users are working on together with a list of products those users found helpful, wherein said website is configured to dynamically update said projects database at least one of as new projects are discovered by users, or as new uses for existing products are discovered by users." Support for the amendments may be found in the originally filed specification at paragraph 52. Therefore, the suggested combination of Rofrano and Service does not teach all of the limitations of the independent claims. These differences are significant because, by providing a forum by which users can collaborate on projects together, it is possible to acquire and use the knowledge of potentially a great many users about types of projects and/or uses of tools as those types and uses emerge. This important advantage avoids the need to rely wholly on experts to provide the knowledge to the sales agent, and the significant limitations potentially associated with such reliance.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of independent claims 1 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), along with rejection on these grounds of all claims dependent therefrom.

Claims 3 and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as obvious over Rofrano (U.S. Pat. No. 6,035,283) in view of "Service Equals Sales" (hereinafter Service) and Microsoft Computer Dictionary. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As detailed above, Rofrano and Service fail to teach, suggest, or motivate a website harvesting information about projects that users are working on together with a list of products those users found helpful, wherein said website is configured to dynamically update said projects database at least one of as new projects are discovered by users, or as new uses for existing products are discovered by users. Applicants further remark that Microsoft Computer Dictionary fails to teach, suggest, or motivate this subject matter, and is not relied upon by the Examiner to teach, suggest, or motivate this subject matter.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 3 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on their dependence from allowable base claim 1.
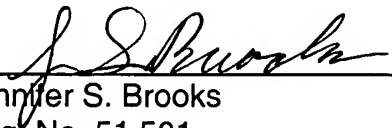
CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt

and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: _October 4, 2005_

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